Appl. No.: 10/000,117 Filed: October 31, 2001

Page 2

## Amendments to the Claims:

- 1. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material comprising two metal plates which are affixed to and separated by a fibrous core, the core comprising a three-dimensional porous network comprising metal fibres, wherein substantially all of the fibres are inclined at an acute angle  $(\theta)$  to the plates.
- 2. (Original) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the metal fibres are bonded together at crossover points within the network.
- 3. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the metal plates and the metal fibres comprise metals selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, steel, aluminium and titanium.
- 4. (Original) A sandwich material according to claim 3, wherein the metal plates and the metal fibres comprise stainless steel or aluminum
- 5. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of a braze.
- 6. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of an adhesive.
- 7. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibres in the core are randomly oriented.
- 8. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein  $\theta$  is less than 60°.

RTA01/2149665v1

Appl. No.: 10/000,117 Filed: October 31, 2001 Page 3

- 9. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the fibres is less than 500  $\mu m$ .
- 10. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the material is 0.5mm 1 cm.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibres occupy 5-50 volume % of the core.
- 12. (Original) A sandwich material according to claim 11, wherein the fibres occupy 5-10 volume % of the core.
- 13. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the core additionally comprises non-metallic fibres.
- 14. (Previously Presented) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous core additionally comprises a polymer matrix.
- 15. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a sandwich material as defined in claim 1, comprising the step of affixing two metal plates to either side of a fibrous core.
- 16. (Previously Presented) A welded material comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1 welded to a substrate.
- 17. (Previously Presented) A vehicle part comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1.

RTA01/2149665v1

Appl. No.: 10/000,117 Filed: October 31, 2001 Page 4

- 18. (Previously Presented) A vehicle part according to claim 17, which is selected from the group consisting of spoilers, panels and roofs.
- 19. (Previously Presented) A vehicle comprising a vehicle part as defined in claim 17.